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REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated December 29, 2003, and have made amendments to the claims. Claims 41-43, 46 and 47 have been amended. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a). Alternatively, if these amendments are deemed to touch the merits, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). In this connection, these amendments were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action. Lastly, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Claims 41-43 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 41 and 47 as suggested by the Examiner. In particular, claims 41 and 47 have been amended to correct misstated number of tail output bits, namely $(nx2)/R$. Claim 46 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis. No new matter has been added.

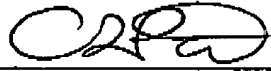
In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that claims 41-43 and 47 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

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Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 301-601-7252 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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